APPENDIX A

Please amend the paragraph on Page 2, lines 2-17 of the specification as follows:

The invention overcoming these and other problems in the art relates in one regard to a system and method for a network configuration engine, the configuration engine having an extensible library of network elements to selectively add, drop or change the network devices and services being prepared and deployed. In one embodiment, the network configuration engine of the invention may be implemented as a portable software package, for instance a Java module, which serves to abstract the hardware and software specifications and interfaces from one or many manufacturers while permitting simulation and configuration of assembled networks to take place. Both physical network elements as well as user interfaces, such as network mappers and other software tools, may be configured according to the invention.